

D-R-A-F-T  
**Proposed Agenda**  
**For The**  
**USEPA/USACE/USBR Columbia-Snake Modeling Worksession**  
**September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**

The Edith Green-Wyatt Federal Building  
1220 SW 3rd Ave, Conference room 622  
Portland, OR

Day One: Tuesday September 25th

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME..... Mike Gearheard, EPA Region 10

II. OPENING STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE, NEED  
AND APPROACH.....

Denise Keehner, EPA HQ,  
Dave Shepp, USACE HQ  
Mike Gearheard, EPA Region 10  
Dave Ponganis, USACE NWD

III. BACKGROUND/HISTORY “WHERE HAVE WE BEEN AND  
WHY?”.....

Mike Gearheard, EPA Region 10,  
& Dave Ponganis, USACE NWD

IV. MODELING /RELATED POLICY ISSUES-WHAT COMPRISES  
AN EFFECTIVE PREDICTIVE TOOL FOR OUR NEEDS  
TODAY?.....

Dave Shepp, USACE HQ &  
Mike Gearheard, EPA Region 10

(for each issue identify group consensus and next steps)

- A. Need for/Role of Interdisciplinary/Interagency Modeling Team
- B. Geographic Area of Modeling Effort
- C. Boundary Conditions- Temperatures at Canadian border; Tributary Inputs to Main Stem, etc.
- D. Point and Nonpoint Inputs
- E. Baseline Assumptions: Dams In or Out? Current ESA Requirements in.
- F. One vs.Two Dimensional Model
- G. Years to be simulated: Wet, Average, Dry-All Seasons
- H. Daily or hourly time step
- I. Land Use Information/Associated Loading Rates
- J. Complexity/Equity of Allocation Scheme
- K. Data Requirements/Current Adequacy-Additional Needs?
- L. Analytical Direction: Top-Down vs. Bottom-up
- M. Need to Predict/Allocate Sources/Magnitude of Other Impairments, In Addition to Temperature
- N. Desired Outputs/Interpretation/Reporting: Timing & Resourcing Implications
- O. Stakeholder Involvement in Scoping Modeling Capabilities/Understanding Analytical Constraints.
- P. Potential External Peer Review of Modeling Considerations/Needs/Capabilities

## V. APPLYING THE NEW PREDICTIVE TOOL

### A. Stakeholder Input to Development of Analytical Approaches & Management Scenarios

#### B. Understanding Implementation Issues/Realities/Challenges

1. Achievability and Potential Need for UAA Process or other CWA relief
2. Specific Opportunities for Temperature Improvement
  - e.g., Grand Coulee, Hells Canyon

## VI. DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE TMDL APPROACH: Alternative Strategies for completing TMDL

### A. Break into multiple TMDLs that are sequenced

1. Grand Coulee temperature TMDL
  - major temp impact
  - feasible options – e.g., powerhouse switch
  - first dam in USA on Columbia
  - single model for reservoir
  - PSU W2 model a possibility
2. Grand Coulee to Chief Joseph TMDL
  - same advantages as above
  - covers tribal waters (Colville and Spokane)
3. Snake River temperature TMDL
  - different options for scope – e.g., include HC Complex?
  - HC Complex and Snake Dams major temp impact
  - OR/ID TMDL does not address WA border impact
  - Solidify Dworshak ops as CWA and ESA compliant
4. Balance of Columbia River TMDL

### B. Simplify the TMDL – e.g., group the Loading Analysis in a systems/sub-regional context

### C. Aggregate Impairments (pursue potential co-variance) and analyze as multiple sequential TMDLs (per A above)

### D. Aggregate Impairments (pursue potential co-variance) and group the Loading Analysis in a systems/sub-regional context (per B above)

## VI. INTERPRETING/REPORTING/APPLYING THE MODEL OUTPUTS

### A. Interpretation: Interdisciplinary/Interagency Team

### B. Potential External Peer Review of Team Interpretation

### C. Reporting: Engage Stakeholders, General Public, Decision Makers

## VII. DEVELOPING BASIN-WIDE TMDLS

- A. Identifying the Federal Dam Operators Share. Once the Federal Dam share of basin impairment is fairly/comprehensively addressed via loading allocation, assess what portion of their share of the total impairment is economically/technically feasible to manage?
  - B. Achieving Balance Among Federal Programs/Requirements. Application of Outputs: Integrating Model Outputs in the Context of Achieving a Mutually Supportive Approach: Optimizing Congressionally Authorized Dams and Their Operations, the Clean Water Act Requirements and the Threatened and Endangered Species Act Requirements
  - C. Utilize a systems/subregional/watershed-based approach to integrate Model Outputs Into a Comprehensive Series of Management Decisions in a consistent context across CWA, ESA requirements and Congressionally Authorized Dam Operations requirements.
  - D. Adjust WQS to reflect economically/technically feasible compliance and practical, field based observations of system response and develop a sequential, incremental TMDL approach for Federal Dams in the Columbia-Snake River Basins.
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## VIII. DEVELOPING A GAME PLAN

- A. NEAR-TERM (COMPLIANCE) Compliance Schedules, Variances, etc.
- B. LONG-TERM (MUTUALLY-SUPPORTING APPROACH TO OPTIMAL PROTECTION)-Adjust WQS to be attainable-base WQS on observed systems response to ambient conditions. Possibly site/reach/subwatershed-specific standards
- C. State and Stakeholder Input to Plan

## IX. OTHER ISSUES

- Washington State WQS
- Engaging the Forum (or whatever name we will apply to the group) in this effort/defining their role in the overall process
- TDG Related Issues
- Demos-Applegate/Willamette
- Utility of Independent Peer Review
- PR Plan-Pro-actively getting the word out-that there is life after the Fall Workshop